

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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P 072211Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4766

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4809

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 407TH PRC MEETING, AUGUST 6

1. AMBASSADOR WELCOMED NEW CINC, LTG MCAULIFFE, TO PRC AND STATED COMMITTEE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIM. IN BRIEF REPLY, CINC REMARKED THAT IN COURSE OF VISITS TO VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF HIS COMMAND HE HAS BEEN IMPRESSED BY EVEN JUNIOR OFFICERS' AWARENESS OF SENSITIVITY OF CANAL TREATY ISSUE AND NEED FOR RESTRAINT WHICH, ON BASIS OF SPOT CHECKS, HE BELIEVES ALSO REFLECTED IN AVERAGE SOLDIER.

2. TREATY RELATED MATTERS: AFTER REVEIWIN LAST WEEK'S DEVELOPMENTS IN SENATE, AMBASSADOR STATED EMBASSY WOULD DRAFT A PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE, PRIMARILY FOR USE IN CANAL ZONE, ANNOUNCING DESIGNATION OF POLITICAL COUNSELOR BLACKEN AS U.S. NEGOTIATORS' LIAISON OFFICER FOR PURPOSE OF INFORM-ING CANALZ ONE ENTITIES AND EMPLOYEES OF TREATY NEGOTIA-TION DEVELOPMENTS. GOVERNOR ASKED THAT HE BE ADVISED OF ANY NEW INITIATIVES BEFORE BLACKEN ADDRESSES CZ GROUPS. AMBASSADOR ASSURED GOVERNOR AND CINC THAT BLACKEN WOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH PCC/CZG AND SOUTHCOM.

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3. CONTINGENCY PLAN: A DRAFT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR INTERIM

ACTIONS WAS PRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN OF PRC WORKING GROUP.
EMBASSY, PCC/CZG AND SOUTHCOM WILL REVIEW DRAFT PROPOSAL
WITH VIEW TO PRC APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING.

4. OLD FRANCE FIELD: GOVERNOR REPORTED CONVERSATION
WITH COUNSELOR GABRIEL LEWIS DURING WHICH HE WAS TOLD OF
CONTINUING WASHINGTON CONCERN OVER STRICT GOP ADHERENCE
TO TERMS OF OLD FRANCE FIELD AGREEMENT. IT WAS AGREED
THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATORS OF THAT
AGREEMENT (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONLEY AND JAIME ARIAS) TO
MEET FOR PURPOSES OF AGREEING BEFOREHAND ON INTERPRETATIONS
ENSUING FROM ACTIONS TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT.

5. VISIT OF DOD DEPUTY SECRETARY: CINC REPORTED PHONE
CALL FROM JCS CHAIRMAN, GEN BROWN, ANNOUNCING POSSIBLE TWO-
DAY VISIT TO CANAL ZONE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS.
VISIT POSSIBLE AUGUST 11 BUT MORE LIKELY AT END OF MONTH
OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. CINC SAID DEPARTMENT BEING CONSULTED
ON ADVISABILITY OF CLEMENTS MEETING WITH GOP OFFICIALS
DURING COURSE OF VISIT. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED HE THOUGHT
SUCH CONTACTS WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

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